

Message Text

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SUBJ: US.-MEXICO BILATERAL CULTURAL COMMISSION; PROPOSED TASK
FORCE ON ACADEMIC COOPERATION

REF: HOFFENBERG/CARTER LETTER 8/1/75

1. EMBASSY IN PROCESS DEVELOPING PAPERS REGARDING PROPOSED
AGENDA ITEMS FOR CULTURAL COMMISSION AND WILL FORWARD AD
SERIATUM AS COMPLETED.

2. NO OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO INVITATION, OTHER DETAILS FROM GOM
EXPECTED UNTIL PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND ENTOURAGE RETURN FROM
MID-EAST VISIT NEXT WEEK. WILL CABLE ASAP.

3. REGARDING ACADEMIC TASK FORCE, AT MEETING INCLUDING MIGUEL
ANGEL CORSO(ACADEMIC ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT OF METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY), IIE REPRESENTATIVE AND EMBOFF, FOLLOWING POINTS
DECIDED:

4. ANGEL CORSO WOULD SERVE AS COORDINATOR. MEXICAN SIDE WOULD
BE SELECTED BY PEDRO RAMIREZ VASQUEZ, METROPOLITAN'S PRESIDENT,
WHO WOULD ALSO SERVE AS GROUP'S ADVISOR. (FYI: EMBASSY
CONFIDENT RAMIREZ VASQUEZ BETTER SUITED THIS ROLE
THAN AS TASK FORCE MEMBER, SINCE HE SENSITIVE TO AND KNOWLEDGEABLE
ABOUT MEXICAN EDUCATION AND ITS INTERNAL POLITICS, AND HAS
EXCELLENT CONTACTS IN GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION CIRCLES,
INCLUDING FORMIN RABASA. END FYI).

5. MEXICAN TEAM WOULD BE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVE FROM
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EACH OF THREE INTEREST GROUPS: (A) UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY OF

MEXICO CITY; (B) PRIVATE PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITIES (PROBABLY MONTERREY TECH); AND (C) MEXICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

6. EMPHASIS THEIR SIDE WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH MEXICO'S PRIORITIES IN TERMS OF EXISTING US. EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, BEARING IN MIND NEED TO INSULATE EXCHANGES FROM POLITICAL INFLUENCES.

7. SINCE MANY MEXICAN EDUCATORS WILL ATTEND THREE-WEEK INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY WORLD CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW BEGINNING AUGUST 18, ANGEL CORSO ESTIMATED MEXICAN PAPER COULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER, WHICH IS TOO LATE FOR INCLUSION AS AGENDA ITEM CULTURAL COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 29-30. EMBASSY FEELS SUCH INCLUSION WOULD ESCALATE RISK OF POLITICAL INFLUENCES IN TASK FORCE'S WORK.

8. ANGEL CORSO LEFT MEETING FOR APPOINTMENT WITH RAMIREZ VASQUEZ AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT OUR DECISIONS. HE ALSO INDICATED HE WOULD BE IN CONTACT TODAY WITH OTHER REPRESENTATIVES TO GET THEM STARTED ON CONSULATIONS WITH AIM OF DRAFTING MEXICAN POSITION PAPER.

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